

May 20, 2011

Ms. Paula J. Hammond Secretary of Transportation PO Box 47316 Olympia, WA 98504-7316

Dear Ms. Hammond,

The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to safeguarding the historic and cultural resources of Washington through advocacy, education, collaboration and stewardship. Programmatically, one of the ways the Washington Trust implements its mission is through our annual Most Endangered Historic Properties List. Through this list, we highlight a variety of preservation-related challenges and opportunities facing historic properties across the state. The goal of the Most Endangered List is to work with all stakeholders in an effort to reach a positive preservation outcome for those historic resources identified each year.

In March, the Washington Trust received a nomination to include the McMillin Bridge, which spans the Puyallup River as part of SR162 in Pierce County, in our 2011 Most Endangered List. After reviewing the nomination, the Washington Trust Board of Directors approved the inclusion of the McMillin Bridge in our 2011 List. The full list will be announced as part of our National Preservation Month activities at a press event scheduled for Tuesday, May 24.

Our primary concern is the potential demolition of the McMillin Bridge. The Washington Trust is a consulting party through the Section 106 process presently underway as alternatives to demolition are considered. To date, however, there has been little in the way of consultation. Our organization has submitted a letter stating our position, but other than acknowledging receipt, no further efforts toward engaging in consultation have been made on the part of WSDOT. I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about our Most Endangered program and encourage any questions you might have about the process. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 206-624-9449 or via email at <a href="mailto:cmoore@wa-trust.org">cmoore@wa-trust.org</a> to discuss further the goal of preserving the McMillin Bridge.

Sincerely,

Chris Moore Field Director

Cc: Roger Kiers, Cultural Resources Specialist, WSDOT Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Specialist, WSDOT

Craig Holstine, Historian, WSDOT